

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a drink preparation machine, the drink preparation machine configured to prepare each of a plurality of different drink types in one or more different quantities, the method comprising:

defining a plurality of different drink units, each drink unit corresponding to a particular quantity of a particular drink type;

defining an amount of thermal energy to be required by each of the plurality of different drink units;

receiving a selection of a drink unit;

withdrawing hot water for the selected drink unit from a common hot water source, wherein supply water enters the hot water source through an inlet and the hot water is withdrawn from the hot water source through an outlet, and wherein the temperature of the hot water emanating from the outlet is greater than the temperature of the supply water entering the hot water source through the inlet;

measuring a water level in the hot water source;

measuring one or both of a pressure and a temperature within the hot water source;

determining a performance status of the hot water source, based on ~~the measured level within the hot water source, the measured pressure within the hot water source, the measured temperature of the water within the hot water source,~~ or some combination of two or more of the measured level, temperature, and pressure;

controlling the hot water withdrawal by:

enabling the hot water withdrawal for all of the plurality of different drink units at a predetermined full performance status of the hot water source;

disabling the hot water withdrawal for all of the plurality of different drink units at a predetermined zero performance status of the hot water source; and

disabling the hot water withdrawal for at least one predetermined drink unit of the plurality of different drink units and enabling the hot water withdrawal for at least one predetermined drink unit of the plurality of different drink units at a predetermined partial performance status of the hot water source.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein disabling the hot water withdrawal for at least one drink unit occurs if the performance status falls below a threshold value.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the full performance status comprises a performance range.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the partial performance status comprises at least one performance range.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising establishing a performance withdrawal value for each of the different drink units, and deducting this performance withdrawal value from the performance status with each withdrawal.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising heating up the hot water synchronously with the withdrawal.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising determining the performance status of the hot water source prior to controlling the hot water withdrawal.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein determining the performance status of the hot water source comprises determining a level of the water in a boiler.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein determining the performance status of the hot water source comprises determining the temperature of the water in the hot water source.